

REMARKS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Larsen et al.

In the Office Action of March 27, 2003, claims 1-3, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Larsen et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. Despite the impropriety of the rejection, claims 1-3, 6 and 8 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claims 1-3, 6 and 8 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 1-3, 6 and 8 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (*en banc*), *overruled in part*, 535 U.S. 722 (2002).

2. England et al.

Claims 9, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by England et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003. Despite the impropriety of the rejection, claims 9, 10 and 14 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claims 9, 10 and 14 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 9, 10 and 14 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Larsen et al. and Kameda et al.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Larsen et al. and Kameda et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003. Despite the impropriety of the rejection, claims 4 and 5 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claims 4 and 5 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 4 and 5 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

2. Larsen et al. and Taguchi et al.

Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Larsen et al. and Taguchi et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003. Despite the impropriety of the rejection, claims 7 and 17 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claims 7 and 17 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 7 and 17 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

3. England et al. and Larsen et al.

Claims 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of England et al. and Larsen et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003. Despite the impropriety of the rejection,

claims 11 and 16 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claims 11 and 16 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 11 and 16 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

4. England et al. and Kameda et al.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of England et al. and Kameda et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003. Despite the improperness of the rejection, claims 12 and 13 have been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claims 12 and 13 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 12 and 13 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

5. England et al. and Taguchi et al.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of England et al. and Taguchi et al. Applicant traverses this rejection for the same reasons given in Applicant's Amendment filed on July 28, 2003. Despite the improperness of the rejection, claim 15 has been canceled in order to expedite prosecution of the present application in order to have the inventions of claims 18 and 19 granted in a patent. Claim 15 will be presented in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, the cancellation of claim 15 is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

C. Claims 18 and 19

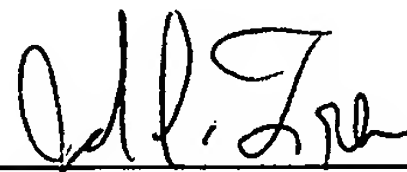
Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 18 and 19 have been indicated to be allowed.

Applicant also notes that an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is presented in the Office Action of November 20, 2003. Applicant traverses the statement in that there are other reasons and/or broader reasons why the claims are allowable. In addition, the statement refers to elements that are not recited in the claims. For example, claim 19 does not recite using "an outer portion of said slip ring unit." Of course this does not mean that claim 19 would not encompass such a use of an outer portion of the slip ring unit.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance and seeks an early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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Annotated Marked-up Drawings

FIG. 1

